

HOUSE BILL 1042

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2003 Regular Session
(3r1593)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Ways and Means/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs --

Introduced by ~~Delegate Heller~~ **Delegates Heller, Cryor, King, Boschert, and Howard**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Availability of Audiology and Speech-Language**
3 **Services**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Availability of Audiology
5 and Speech-Language Services; specifying the composition, powers, and duties
6 of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; requiring the
7 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of
8 the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this
9 Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Availability of
10 Audiology and Speech-Language Services.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Availability of Audiology and Speech-
14 Language Services for children in kindergarten through grade 12 in the public schools
15 in the State.

1 (b) The Task Force consists of the following ~~13~~ 17 members:

2 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
3 of the Senate;

4 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
5 the House;

6 (3) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
7 designee; and

8 (4) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

9 (i) A representative from the Maryland Association of Boards of
10 Education;

11 (ii) Two public school personnel who are employed by a local public
12 school system and who supervise hearing and speech-language services within a local
13 public school system;

14 (iii) Two consumer members;

15 (iv) Two individuals who are practicing members of the Maryland
16 Speech-Language and Hearing Association; ~~and~~

17 (v) A representative from the Office for Individuals with
18 Disabilities, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;

19 (vi) Two members of the Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid
20 Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists, to include one audiologist and one
21 speech-language pathologist;

22 (vii) A physician specializing in hearing health or children's health;
23 and

24 (↔) (viii) A chairman.

25 (c) ~~The Department of Legislative Services~~ Maryland State Department of
26 Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

27 (d) The Task Force shall study and consider:

28 (1) The scope of services provided by audiologists and speech-language
29 pathologists in the public schools in the State;

30 (2) The availability of licensed audiologists and licensed certified
31 speech-language pathologists employed by and on staff in each of the local public
32 school systems in the State;

33 (3) The amount and cost of contracted services utilized by each of the
34 local public school systems in the State for audiology and speech-language services;

1 (4) The number of vacancies filled by contracted personnel and the total
2 number of vacancies for audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the local
3 public school systems in the State;

4 (5) The caseloads and workload duties for the audiologists and
5 speech-language pathologists in the local public school systems in the State;

6 (6) The number of children without hearing and speech-language
7 services due to unfilled positions for audiologists and speech-language pathologists,
8 including the average length of time the children have been without services;

9 (7) The cost of compensatory services and any other legal or
10 administrative costs incurred by the local public school systems in the State for
11 children who do not receive hearing and speech-language services; and

12 (8) The number of children in need of hearing and speech-language
13 services in the local public school systems in the State.

14 (e) The Task Force shall make recommendations regarding:

15 (1) The need, if any, for audiologists and speech-language pathologists
16 on staff in the local public school systems in the State;

17 (2) The need, if any, to implement methods to retain and recruit
18 audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the public school systems in the
19 State; and

20 (3) Whether the current caseloads and workloads for audiologists and
21 speech-language pathologists need to be adjusted to increase hearing and
22 speech-language services for children in need.

23 (f) On or before December 31, 2003, the Task Force shall issue a written
24 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Education, Health, and
25 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 July 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
28 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
29 abrogated and of no further force and effect.